



**Georgia Mountains  
Regional Commission**

# Workforce Development

Serving Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White County

To achieve sustainable economic growth and individual self-sufficiency by developing, sustaining and promoting employment resources and opportunities for all job-seekers and employers through community partnerships.

## On-the-Job Training Program (OJT)



The Georgia Mountains Workforce Investment Board approved the OJT program for our 13 county area on September 28, 2012. The OJT program will allow us to offer a new benefit to customers enrolled in our program while also forming invaluable relationships with the local employers in our communities. The greatest benefit of OJT to customers is that it is an "earn as you learn" program allowing participants to quickly reenter the workforce, employers benefit by training employees their way for the specific needs of their business and having at least 50% of the training cost reimbursed.

For more information on OJT please contact OJT Coordinator, Niki Duncan.

## GMWD Partnership with the GDOL Trade Adjustment Assistant (TAA) Program

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program is a federal program that provides a path for employment growth and opportunity through aid to US workers who have lost their jobs as a result of foreign trade. The TAA program seeks to provide these trade-affected workers with opportunities to obtain the skills, resources, and support they need to become reemployed. For more information you may visit the TAA website [www.doleta.gov/tradeact](http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact)

To be certified as a Trade Act company, the affected company or its employees must file a petition to the Federal Government to be Trade Act certified. The Federal Government will determine if the affected employees will be certified and eligible for Trade Act services. The recent layoffs at Parkdale Mills in Rabun and Franklin Counties are examples of companies that have been Trade Act certified.

Both WIA and TAA offer occupational skills training and supportive services. By agreement, WIA acts as intake and case managers for TAA. For individuals to be approved for TAA services, they must first apply with their local WIA office.

WIA can provide services for customers while they are also receiving TAA services. This is known as co-enrollment and is preferred. For example, WIA can provide the customer supportive services that are not available through TAA, while TAA provides them with their occupational skills training services and travel allowance. TAA has its own specific guidelines, spending amounts and training deadlines. GMWD is currently assisting 30+ TAA certified individuals.

## QUICK HITS:

- ◆ GMWD participated in a job fair targeting veterans at the Georgia World Congress Center. The event was sponsored by the Governors Office of Workforce Development and the Georgia Department of Labor in an effort to assist the 80,000 Georgia veterans who are anticipated to enter the workforce by 2016.
- ◆ Looking for employment? Don't forget to check local job clubs in your area! The Career Connection meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at Gainesville First United Methodist Church. Besides learning job search skills, Career Connection can help you get ideas, tools, connections, help and encouragement during your job search.



- ◆ Local career centers offer valuable workshops each week
  - Gainesville:** Workshops every Tuesday. Resume Writing at 11am, Interviewing at 2pm, and Budgeting at 9am. No appointment necessary. For more information call (770)535-5484.
  - Habersham:** Workshops every Wednesday. Call for registration and class times: (706)776-0811.
  - Toccoa:** Offers one-on-one assistance daily in their office. For more information call (706)282-4514.
  - Blairsville:** Satellite office 8am-4:30pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. All workshops are available at the Blue Ridge Career Center. Call to register: (706)632-2033.

# Workforce Development Success Stories

Joshua Harkins received assistance with his CDL-A license through GMWD, May 2012. He is just one example of the outstanding participants GMWD assists in achieving their career goals.

## Joshua Harkins Named Honor Roll Student!



A recent graduate of Daly Truck Driving School has been awarded top student in our orientation program in Des Moines! He earned top grades throughout his two weeks here and is doing a terrific job for TMC. We want to thank you for your hard work in preparing him for a career in truck driving!

**TMC**

800-247-2862



Tabitha writes:

"I have been nominated for the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL). I thought [Wanda Payne, Case Manager and] WIA should share this honor with me as they are the reason I am here. Without the financial help I have received, I would not have made it to the end without quitting. Thank you!"

*Tabitha is in the Business Administrative Technology Program at North Georgia Technical College*

We welcome potential clients, school faculty members, and our community partners to join us at one of our Overview Sessions.

### Overview Schedule

12/6: Gainesville Career Center- 10am

12/13: Habersham Career Center- 11am

Sessions are also held on Wednesday's at 10am weekly, at the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, 1310 West Ridge Road, Gainesville, GA.

Please call our office for more information and to register, 770-538-2727.

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#### Adult/Dislocated Worker Staff

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#### Youth Staff

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#### Main Office Information

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Jared is a student at North Georgia College and State University working toward a degree in Business Management and graduating Spring 2013. This is what he said about the assistance he received from the GMWD Program:

"At the time, [two years into my degree] I still had the HOPE scholarship to pay my tuition, but there is a lot more to college expenses than just the tuition. WIA was able to step in and allow me the resources necessary for me to be able to graduate in the future. The available funding coupled with the HOPE scholarship was sufficient enough to cover the majority of my college costs. As a result, with the assistance of WIA, I am now well on my way to graduating in six months. Without this assistance it simply would not be possible for me to continue my college education. This is truly a great program, and I am thankful that I have been lucky enough to find and receive assistance from GMWD."

Dan has worked as a Case Manager for the Adult/Dislocated Worker program for 6 years.

As a case manager, his responsibilities are to determine each customer's suitability and eligibility for the receipt of Federal Workforce Investment Act training funds. He ensures that all occupational training and financial supports are closely monitored to conform and comply with GMWD guidelines. Dan's ultimate goal is to give eligible customers the needed occupational skills training to successfully reenter the workforce.

### Meet Our Staff: Dan Thornton



*Dee Dee Mize is a Family TIES director and motivational speaker for youth of all ages and is an anti-bully advocate. Dee Dee attended the first Quarterly Workshop held at the GMRC office for youth in Hall County who participated in the 2012 Summer Work Experience, but do not currently have a work placement with the Youth Program. The session focused on body language and appropriate behavior in the work place. The workshops will focus on perfecting the job skills learned this summer and also gaining some new ones before the 2013 Summer Work Experience.*



### Thoughts and Reflections from Youth in the 2012 Summer Work Experience

"I learned good work ethic: showing up on time for work and completing my job that was assigned to me daily. I was taught that when I finished the job duties on my list to ask for additional work duties. I learned how to paint, organize a room and keep things neat and clean. Also, I learned how to deal with the customers that came into the store." - Age 16

"One job skill I learned that might help me in the future is organizing. This would help me in case I have to work at a store. If things are not organized, then it'll be harder for people to find things. Customers might also complain about the trouble of finding something. Organizing went from a weakness to a strength." - Age 18

"I was benefited by the Summer Work Experience program in the most obvious way, the experience. I have been contemplating the cosmetology field for a while, and now that I have been able to see what happens in a salon and what work has to be done to keep a salon going, I feel like I have a better understanding of cosmetology. I have learned that this is definitely what I want to do while I am in college, if not for my permanent career." - Age 17



**Student in Project SEARCH at the Future Planning meeting. Teachers, family, and case managers come together and help the youth map out their next move after graduation.**

This year the Youth Department decided to approach Summer Intake differently than they have in the past. Staff will go to a location in each county to meet with applicants and their parents. At this Overview Session, the families will get to know all about WIA, the programs it offers, and the application process. Applicants will be expected to bring: photo ID, social security card, and birth certificate with the initial documents requested. Students will complete a large portion of the application that same day.

The application packets will be mailed to the schools before Thanksgiving, and the schools will be responsible for distributing the applications and the information to students.

If you would like more information about the Summer Work Experience Overview Session for your county, contact the Workforce Development Office Youth Department, or contact your local high school.

### January 2013- Summer Work Experience Overview Sessions

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Lumpkin County	3 Hall County	4	5
6	7	8 Habersham County	9 Dawson County	10 Franklin County	11	12
13	14	15 Stephens County	16 Rabun County	17 Union/Towns County	18	19
20	21	22	23 Hart County	24 Forsyth County	25	26
27	28	29 Banks County	30 White County	31		